

A close-up photograph of several tree trunks, likely birches, showing significant damage to the bark. The bark is white with dark, irregular patches and holes, indicating insect infestation or other environmental damage. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest setting.

State of the Chesapeake Bay Program 2014



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.



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Message from CBP Director

No waterway or piece of land is separate from another in the Bay watershed; it is part of a large and diverse ecosystem. What makes this area unique IS the rich interconnectedness of species, waters, habitats, and people. Over the last year-and-a-half we have seen a growing recognition that this interconnectedness is one of our strengths, one upon which we should capitalize using the collaborative partnerships we have formed over the past 30 years.

Examples of collaboration among our Goal Implementation Teams include:

- Fisheries scientists and policy makers have made broader efforts to ask questions about how their efforts can be enhanced by working with their colleagues in habitat and water quality restoration
- Habitat managers have continued to research and offer information to each of the teams about the ‘services’ that forests, wetlands and other parts of the ecosystem provide to the creatures and people that live in them.
- Water quality experts continue to monitor the health of the waterways that sustain the vast network of rivers and streams that feed the entire ecosystem; they also work closely with diverse groups of others to encourage changes and ways we can better live on the land and thereby minimize our pollution footprints to our waters
- Those working to preserve healthy areas along our waterways are trying to identify what makes these landscapes work so well and share it with other goal teams, local governments and other stakeholders so they know what we must value and protect.
- Our stewardship teams are about bringing people together with the resource, through education, public access and conservation – connecting people of the region with these valuable resources.
- Our leadership team continues to keep the CBP partnership conversations open and active, looking for more connections and projects that would benefit from various perspectives and knowledge.

The most visible sign of our increased interrelationships is our new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, our collaborative plan for how we will continue our combined efforts and strive to meet goals together. Creating this accord has only been possible because of the collective experience and science-based approaches of our internal teams, who have worked hand-in-hand on the issues, and the broader viewpoints of our leadership, who have brought many perspectives to the table. Just like this diverse ecosystem, we at CBP are all connected; it’s what makes us unique and makes us work effectively together.

Nicholas DiPasquale, Director,
Chesapeake Bay Program



A New *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

The Chesapeake Bay Program has accomplished a great deal since the signing of the first *Chesapeake Bay Agreement* in 1983, but we still have much left to do. Our new voluntary *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, like other agreements before it, will be the foundation for the Bay Program's collective restoration, conservation, protection and stewardship efforts across the Chesapeake Bay region. From the day it is signed, it will become our guide into the future.

In 2011, the CBP partners recognized the need to create a new, up-to-date agreement – one that would reflect improvements in our scientific knowledge, changes in the regulatory landscape and evolutions that have taken place within the partnership and the restoration effort. In particular, with the need to revisit outdated commitments and the issuance of both the federal Chesapeake Executive Order (which now drives federal agency efforts) and the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the Program's partners realized a new agreement would be needed to better align the goals of federal, state, local and non-governmental partners.

The CBP partners' new *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* provides clearer and more well-defined goals and outcomes. It allows for greater flexibility than we've had in the past through the adoption of an adaptive management decision-making process – one based on the application of scientific process and continual analysis of monitoring data. Partners have crafted it to have more transparency and accountability than any previous partnership agreement by committing to create specific Management Strategies that will, when implemented, support individual goals and outcomes. During the development of each Management Strategy, CBP will welcome public input and will coordinate with communities and local governments to also consider the impacts associated with climate change and changing environmental conditions. The final Management Strategies will be reviewed every two years to ensure CBP partners stay on track to reach our collective goals.

Finally, the new Agreement fosters greater collaboration across the various goal implementation areas of sustainable fisheries, vital habitats, water quality, healthy watersheds, stewardship, land conservation, public access and environmental literacy, as well as addressing toxic contaminants and climate resiliency. To further this end, it brings the headwater states of Delaware, New York and West Virginia on board as full partners in the restoration effort, too.

The Chesapeake Bay restoration effort faces new challenges. The new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement is a whole ecosystem accord that puts new approaches and mechanisms in place to address the challenges across the 64,000 square mile network of rivers, streams and landscapes of the watershed.

Restoration Progress

CBP's Goal Implementation Teams and workgroups are comprised of state, federal and local representatives from all jurisdictions in the watershed—experts in their fields who contribute their perspective and knowledge to the restoration of fisheries, habitats, healthy lands and waters and while also increasing stewardship.

Over the last year, the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) continued to adapt the ways CBP partners work together and find opportunities for collaboration across the issues. Fisheries experts have begun implementing the Bay-wide oyster restoration strategy focused on bringing these bivalves back, one tributary at a time. Habitat experts continue to work toward shorter approval times for wetland restoration permits and a watershed-wide indicator for black duck and brook trout habitat improvements. The team working on keeping healthy watersheds intact is developing a database of local watersheds that *are* healthy to be used across the CBP teams as a resource for targeting efforts. Whether through these initiatives or on-the-ground work such as grass and forest buffer plantings or wastewater treatment plant upgrades, the actions of CBP's cross-cutting teams span many local restoration efforts across watershed.

In 2012 and 2013, partners' efforts to plant forests along streams, restore wetlands and reduce pollutants offered examples of both success and challenges. For example, while the number of acres of the forests restored along streams shows an increase for the year, the total amount of riparian forest buffers being restored over the long-term is at an all-time low, largely due to lack of federal funding of the program that supports farmers as they convert farm land to forests. This will prove to be a challenge since many of the states in the Bay watershed are counting on ramping up the planting of these streamside tree buffers to filter excess pollutants and thereby meet their goals under the Bay TMDL.

The value of local successes lies in opportunities for them to be used across various landscapes in the watershed. The value to our waters is that these pollution reducing practices have shown us a way forward in lessening the flow of pollutants to local waters and the Bay.



Restoration Progress in 2012-2013

Pollution Reduced

Since 2009, estimates show that partners reduced pollution loads by:

Nitrogen – 20.28 million pounds

Phosphorus – 2.04 million pounds

Sediment – 497 million pounds

Public Access Increased

36 new public access sites were opened to the public in 2013 for a total of 1,208 existing sites throughout the watershed.

Wetlands Restored

5,503 acres of wetlands were established, rehabilitated or re-established on agricultural lands in the Bay watershed between 2010 and 2012.

Fish Passage Re-opened

33 miles of rivers and creeks were reopened to fish passage in 2013 for a total of 2,576 miles reopened since 1989.

Forest Buffers Planted

Approximately 229 miles of forest buffers were planted along the Bay watershed's streams and rivers from July 2012 to June 2013. A total of 7,994 miles have been planted watershed-wide since 1996.

Blue Crab Management

Based on 2012-2013 winter dredge survey data and estimates of Bay-wide harvest, the Chesapeake Bay spawning-age female [blue crab](#) population and harvest continued at sustainable levels. Harvest was estimated at 10 percent, well below the maximum number that can be taken, 34 percent. *(The Bay-wide data on harvest for 2013-14 is expected to be released by the end of June 2014)*

About the Goal Implementation Teams (GITs)

The unique regional CBP partnership brings together leaders and experts from a vast range of agencies and organizations. Each Bay Program partner uses its own resources to implement Bay restoration and protection activities. Partners work together through the Bay Program's goal teams, workgroups and committees to collaborate, share information and set goals.

GIT 1: Sustainable Fisheries

In 2013-14, the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team focused on oyster restoration, invasive catfish mitigation, and blue crab management priorities, and tracked the results of the latest coastwide striped bass stock assessment. The team also engaged other GITs on these and related issues to advance ecosystem based restoration and living resource management.

Accomplishments:

The Fisheries GIT Maryland and Virginia Oyster Interagency workgroups identified priority tributaries for oyster restoration and created draft tributary plans for the Little Choptank and Tred Avon tributaries in Maryland. [Implementation](#) of Maryland's Harris Creek restoration plan is underway and as of December 2013, reef construction and/or seed planting have occurred on 188.6 acres of the 377 acres targeted for restoration. In Virginia, partners are beginning to develop [science based](#) oyster restoration plans for the Lafayette and Piankatank Rivers with defined restoration targets.

The Invasive Catfish Task Force has completed their final [report](#), currently under review by STAC. The report recommends management strategies to mitigate ecological impacts of invasive catfish on native species. The recommendations aim to reduce invasive catfish populations, slow their spread, and increase public awareness throughout the Bay. The next step is to work with jurisdiction managers to implement these recommendations.

Jurisdictions continue to manage blue crab populations based on [female-specific biological reference points](#) adopted in 2012. In 2013, the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) developed [male conservation triggers](#) that define the conditions under which jurisdictions should consider separate conservation measures for male crabs. CBSAC's [2013 Blue Crab Advisory Report](#) indicates that the blue crab population and fishery is within the targets and thresholds established in management framework jurisdictions use to cooperatively manage the blue crab stock. The next CBSAC report is expected out by the end of June 2014.

In December 2013, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) adopted the new [striped bass benchmark stock assessment](#), which indicates that the coastwide striped bass population is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

GIT 2: Protect and Restore Vital Habitats

Over the last year, the Vital Habitats GIT has continued to focus on restoring land and water habitats that support priority species while providing recreational, scenic and economic benefits for people. The team continues to identify and assemble information on services provided by habitats and offer this information to other CBP teams and partners. The GIT is also working closely with the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to facilitate a coordinated brook trout restoration discussion in the watershed. With the support of grant funds, on-the-ground brook trout projects in Chesapeake headwaters this past year received commitments of more than \$7 million in funds.

Accomplishments:

In November 2012, the GIT collaborated with the CBP Communications Office to produce an award-winning video about connecting good land use and healthy brook trout habitat.

Later that month, a meeting of regulators and practitioners, convened by the Team, engendered a healthy dialogue on the permitting process for habitat restoration projects. The meeting resulted in suggestions for ways to reduce the permit approval period and, in spin-off dialogues in Maryland, aimed at creating a model program for use by other partners. Over the winter, the Forestry Workgroup finalized and released the *Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy* to advance innovative and collaborative approaches to targeted forest restoration in priority areas.

The Habitat GIT also led a series of discussions to determine potential priority areas for wetland restoration, which resulted in a successful grant proposal to accelerate wetland restoration across four states.

In April 2013, the team co-hosted a STAC workshop, “Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats” to assess the current status and trending condition of coastal ecosystems and identify which components of habitat can be sustained in the face of increasing human impacts and a changing [climate](#).



Bay Health Bottom Habitat

45 percent of the surveyed locations in the Bay had healthy populations of bottom-dwelling worms, clams and creatures—the foundation of the food web.

GIT 3: Protect & Restore Water Quality

The Water Quality Team continues to develop a partnership-wide verification framework to ensure Best Management Practices (BMPs) are properly implemented and maintained. Each sector workgroup developed verification guidance since verification requires different approaches from sector to sector. As of April 2014, the 13-member BMP Verification Review Panel has approved five of the sector workgroups' guidance documents. The agriculture verification guidance continues to be developed by the Agriculture Workgroup. As part of the verification effort and their ongoing modeling work, the Agriculture, Urban Stormwater, Forestry and Wastewater Workgroups within the team continue to conduct reviews of existing and proposed BMPs to decide how to credit their pollution reduction values in the Chesapeake Bay Program models. A [list of these BMP reviews](#) is available on *ChesapeakeStat*.

The Water Quality Team continues to work on priorities set by the CBP partners for the 2017 Midpoint Assessment under the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). These priorities include incorporation of new or improved data into the partnership's modeling tools. Improvement of land use data and land use loading rates are among the top priorities identified by the WQGIT. To this end, the Land Use and Urban Stormwater Workgroups co-sponsored a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee workshop in spring 2014 to characterize urban land uses and their nutrient and sediment loading rates. In addition, the Team and its workgroups are reviewing a new set of land use classifications developed by the Land Use Workgroup for inclusion in the decision-support tools.

Accomplishments:

Since the last State of the Program report, the Water Quality team approved three interim BMP panel reports for agriculture, as well as the recommendations from the erosion and sediment control expert panel. The Water Quality Team also approved a method for reporting and crediting homeowner BMPs in the Partnership modeling tools.

The Forestry Workgroup developed a report called *Buffer the Bay*, about the progress and challenges of restoring riparian forest buffers and the critical role they play in water quality improvement. A Leadership Summit on riparian forest buffers, organized by USDA and EPA to address the issues identified in the report, will be held in June 2014. Based on guidance from the Principles' Staff Committee, the Water Quality Team is developing a governance document to guide decision making in the Team and its workgroups.

Bay Health Water Quality

The most current data indicates 31% of the Bay's tidal waters achieve water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/underwater bay grasses and chlorophyll *a*.

GIT 4: Maintain Healthy Watersheds

The Maintain Healthy Watershed Goal Implementation Team continues its work to protect state-identified healthy waters and watersheds that are recognized for their high water quality and/or high ecological value. Its focus is proactive, bringing attention to the challenges of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today, rather than reactive, in which efforts focus on the costly work of restoring "dirty waters" and watersheds to health after they have been degraded. Currently, the team is working toward continually improving the information available for identification and assessment of healthy watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay region as well as developing local engagement strategies aimed at improving the capacity of local governments and non-governmental partners to track and manage healthy watersheds.

Accomplishments:

In 2013, the team worked collaboratively with state representatives and agencies and published a watershed-wide map of state-identified healthy waters and watersheds. This map, which can be viewed on [ChesapeakeStat](#), provides a solid basis for tracking watershed health and protection efforts and lends support to advocacy communications and partnership collaboration.

In addition, each membership meeting has featured a local stakeholder who presented on various topics centered around healthy watersheds including: land conservation in a small watershed in New York, restoration of brook trout habitat by Trout Unlimited, a study of land use policies across multiple jurisdictions aimed at watershed protection, as well as a watershed assessment pilot project in West Virginia designed to inform conservation and management actions in the state.

Team members from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Maryland and the Environmental Protection Agency worked together to present and lead a facilitated discussion on Maryland's Healthy Watersheds strategies at the December 2013 Maryland Water Monitoring Council Conference. This conversation continued at a different session for the April 2014 Maryland Land Conservation Conference. At this same conference, TNC, the Chesapeake Bay Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service team members presented on topics related to crediting conservation in the Bay TMDL, as well as the science and funding sources land conservationists can use to promote healthy watershed protection.

Watershed Health

- 42 % of streams in the watershed are considered to be in very poor condition.
- Population is 17.7M (up 200,000)

GIT 5: Fostering Stewardship

The Stewardship Team focused their efforts in three key areas last year: promotion of collaborative, large-scale land conservation, implementation of a watershed-wide public access plan, and support of high quality environmental literacy planning for K-12 education.

Accomplishments:

In 2014, LandScope Chesapeake, a watershed-wide land conservation system designed to support sound conservation planning, began the first major update for its website. This update to the geographic information and priority system includes items such as mobile browser compatibility, improved mapping services and tools, and multimedia feeds from web services like Flickr and YouTube. These improvements will greatly increase the capacity of LandScope Chesapeake and LandScope America.

The Public Access Action Team within the GIT recently completed two major efforts, both of which advance implementation of the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan](#). First, the team documented and reported 36 new sites opened for public use in 2013—another step closer toward meeting the watershed-wide goal of 300 new sites by 2025. Next, the team identified nearly 200 new potential public access sites and added them to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Public Access Plan, bringing the total number of potential new locations to more than 500. These potential sites will help to direct funding to areas in the Bay watershed where the need for public access is highest.

In its spring 2014 meeting, the Education Workgroup formally established action teams to address priority issues, reviewed the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) tracking tool and discussed next steps for its upcoming testing and implementation. This online indicator tool is scheduled for testing this summer and expected to be ready to receive baseline data this fall. These conversations included introduction of the new Mid Atlantic Sustainable School Fieldscope, a national geographic online mapping tool to showcase schools sustainability efforts.

The Fostering Stewardship team has also worked with partners to finalize the land conservation, public access, and environmental literacy goals and outcomes for the proposed new *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.



GIT 6: Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management

The Enhance Partnering and Leadership GIT has largely focused on coordinating and supporting the development of the new *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. In addition, the team is preparing an options paper for possible development of ways the partnership can evaluate its internal operations the ongoing program evaluation function and is undertaking a significant redesign of the *ChesapeakeStat* web site.

Accomplishments:

Supporting the development of the new *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* has been a significant portion of the team's work over the last two years. Initially, CBP leadership required the development of process materials and content-related options to aid them in making well-informed decisions about pursuing a new partnership agreement—one that includes headwater states as signatories. Process materials include the creation of a timeline for development, a public comments tracking system, and the formation and staffing of an Issues Resolution Committee and Editorial Board. More recently, the GIT drafted an outline for a revised CBP Governance Document and has proposed language to use in integrating PSC agreement-related decisions into that document.

The team has also been assisting CBP leadership on the question of whether and how the CBP should establish an internal, program-wide evaluation function. In response to this need, the team is formulating an options paper to aid in discussions and decision-making. As CBP considers its next steps on this topic, any analysis will need to address the distinction between performance assessment and program evaluation. These will need to be considered in the context of a new structured approach to management of the partnership's strategy and performance under the new agreement and the soon-to-be-developed management strategies.

Lastly, team members have led and participated in a significant redesign of *ChesapeakeStat*. This is an ongoing, multi-phase process beginning with discovery of user needs and expectations that will inform subsequent phases for design and build-out of the revamped website. The site redesign is well timed with the new Agreement and will support, document and describe the goals, progress, and performance of the partnership.

Communications Office and Workgroup

Since the last *State of the Program* Report in 2012, CBP Communications’ has actively pursued the goal of becoming one of the primary sources for watershed-wide news and clear, public-friendly information about the ecosystem and the partnership’s effort to protect, conserve and restore it. Our reach has grown significantly as a result of increased internal communications goal teams and the partners, through the Communications Workgroup. CBP Communications has continued the strong, focused attention to meeting our audiences’ needs while promoting the CBP partnership to the interested public.

Communications has continued to streamline printed products such as *Bay Barometer* and other reports into attractive, meaningful, public-friendly summaries of the partner’s collective research and restoration work. The *New Insights* executive summary, published earlier this spring is another example of a short, readable publication that communicates top messages about the Bay.

These streamlined print publications lead people to the partnership’s flagship tool for sharing information —the CBP website, www.chesapeakebay.net. Our news features dialy stories keep readers engaged through a balanced blend of short, news stories that highlight news and information from the partners work and original stories crafted by CBP Communications staff. Our in-house products have highlighted what’s working, illustrated the challenges of CBP partners’ efforts and celebrated the successes and work of a variety of restoration and scientific experts. Features such as “From the Field” and “Restoration Spotlights” as well as photo essays and [videos](#) have also made our efforts more human, showing the many ‘faces’ across the region who are working toward the same goals of a clean, restored ecosystem..

Not only have we created and posted more than 240 well-crafted stories since the last report, we have increased our efforts to promote them. As a result of increased attention to our online presence, our social media following has doubled with more than 6300 people now following the CBP Facebook page and Twitter and Pinterest feeds. The CBP website also continues to grow in readership with approximately 2.5 million views each year by interested readers—many of whom teachers and students at all educational levels.

CBP Communications’ Reach

5,000,000+ page views of website since July 2012

5,000 = single-day high for views

3,800+ views of 6 blog posts on indicators of health and restoration successes

9,000 views of top three videos in 2013

Social media reach grew 54% on average in 2013 (Facebook alone grew 145%)

Scientific, Technical, Analysis, Reporting (STAR)

STAR continues to coordinate modeling, monitoring, and indicator-related information that helps partners and Goal Teams prioritize the types and locations for management activities. It has also continued to evaluate and synthesize information for cross-cutting CBP products and to serve as liaison to federal, state, academic and non-governmental organizations to identify opportunities to address science needs of the other teams. STAR is continuing to discuss efforts to measure and explain the effects of management actions on water quality.

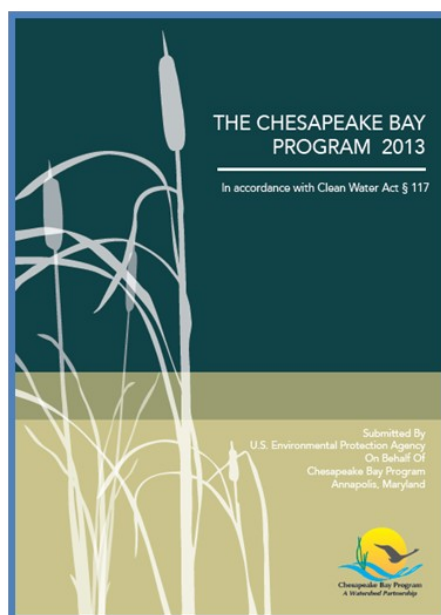
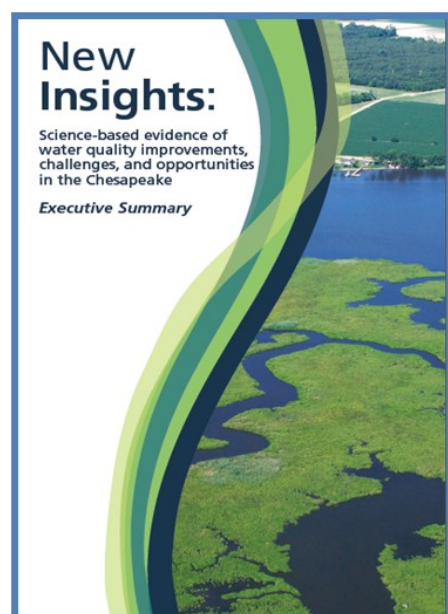
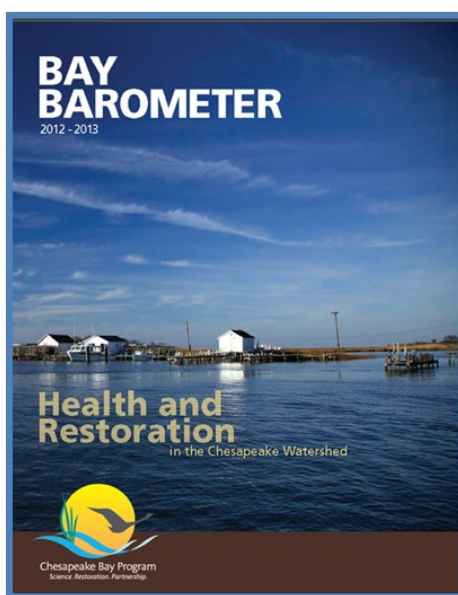
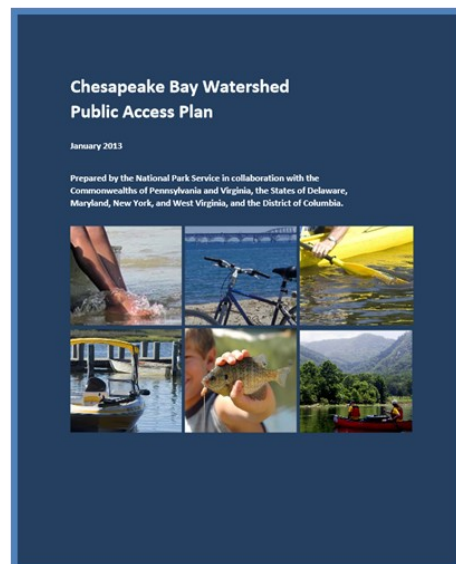
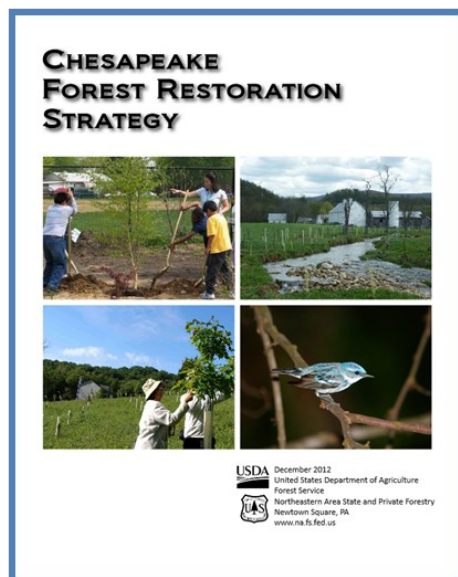
Accomplishments:

Over the last year, STAR focused on efforts to successfully integrate the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's water-quality monitoring information into user-friendly products for managers and decision-makers. The work focused on bringing three key components together: 1) BMP implementation reported by the jurisdictions, 2) long (25 year) and short term (10 year) changes in nutrient and sediment concentrations and their delivered loads across the watershed, and 3) attainment of Chesapeake Bay water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity/SAV, chlorophyll *a*, and benthic habitat health based on tidal monitoring network data. STAR also worked in conjunction with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and CBP Communications Office on the release of the *New Insights* report, a publication that offers science-based evidence of BMP effectiveness in relation to water quality improvements, challenges and opportunities. In addition, STAR released a new indicator for Water Quality Standards Attainment. This combined indicator employs multiple parameters to track the progress of the four Bay jurisdictions toward meeting of water quality standards in tidal portions of the Bay.

STAR has also invested considerable time undertaking a process to develop recommendations for sustaining and expanding water quality monitoring. The monitoring program review process is known as the Building and Sustaining Integrated Networks (BASIN) process targeting a plan for financial and operational support of the monitoring programs that provide TMDL assessment evaluations. The plan is targeting a 10 year outlook through 2025.



Some Reports and Publications



In The Next Year

Climate Change Coordinator - Since the whole ecosystem is affected by climate issues, the partnership's work now and into the future must take a holistic approach to our work. In its efforts to support the Climate Resiliency Goal outlined in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and a similar goal in the Executive Order, the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is creating a new Climate Change Coordinator position. This position will work across all six GITs, spanning everything from fisheries to habitats to stewardship, with an eye to climate change-related issues for each. The coordinator will work to forge bridges between scientific understanding and restoration work, while also factoring in policy impacts now and into the future in ways that can lead to more effective, shared decision-making across the partnership.

Toxics Research & Efforts - CBP analyzes the Bay's tidal waters for quantities of various toxins every two years. We are concerned about their gradual increase in them in the tidal rivers of the region. To address this issue, the partnership will be working to continually increase our understanding of the impacts and mitigation options for toxic contaminants. We will also be evaluating ways to effectively build upon existing practices (such as currently used BMPs) and research new ones that can help reduce the presence of chemical contaminants in our waters.

Funding Now and in the Future - In fiscal year 2013, EPA received \$54 million in funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program's effort. In 2014, the funding increased to \$70 million. Over two-thirds of this increase will go directly to state grants, with additional funds "set aside" to help local governments meet the commitments under the jurisdiction's Watershed Implementation Plans. Of critical importance in the 2014 budget are adequate funds to restore funding of CBP's water quality monitoring network to FY 2012 levels. Lastly, once the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement is signed, the budget includes support for all of its signatory jurisdictions, especially the three headwater states, as they become full CBP partners in the restoration effort. The Presidential Budget Request for fiscal year 2015 is \$73 million.

Development of Management Strategies - CBP partners have committed to developing Management Strategies within one year of the signing of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The partnership's GITs will play a lead role in this fulfilling this commitment by assessing what needs to be done, bringing the best scientists, program and policy experts into the discussions, and engaging and listening to input from stakeholder groups and citizens of the watershed. The strategies will outline the means for accomplishing each of the Agreement's Outcomes, monitoring, assessing and reporting progress and coordinating actions among partners and stakeholders. Where appropriate, they will describe how local governments, non-profit and private partners will be engaged; where actions, tools or technical support are needed to empower local governments and others; and what steps will be taken to facilitate greater local participation in achieving the Outcome.



Chesapeake Bay Program

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The Chesapeake Bay Program is a regional partnership that has coordinated and conducted the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay for more than thirty years, since its creation in 1983. Partners include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the states of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative body; and advisory groups of citizens, scientists and local government officials.